Workplace Alaska

Class Specification
Habitat Biologist I

Created: 10/21/1997 by Adrienne Snow
Finalized on:
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Approved by:
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Class Status: Active

Category: Professional
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Class Title: Habitat Biologist I
Use MJR Form: Standard

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ESTABLISHED

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02/16/77; 10/01/84;
06/21/88 MQ.
11/15/96 Update; full revision (LMA/ncrago).
3/12/02 Audited (KGarrett)
01/15/2006 - Revised MQs (JDailey). Changed codes to agree with HB III/IV
09/25/2008 - Workplace AK spec revision: Added Census Job Code and AKPAY Code fields; Replaced Category field with Class Outline Category; Updated EEO4, SOC, and Class Code fields; Removed DOT field.

Last Update: 11/01/2008 **EEO4:** B **SOC:** 19-1023 **Census:** 02

Last Update Comments:
Maintenance Request; addition to Special Note and MQ questions. (CGouveia)

Definition:
Under supervision, conduct or assist in review of private and public agency development plans for impacts to fish and wildlife resources, habitats, and public use of, and access to, fish and wildlife; and apply fish and wildlife resource data to permitting and project review of land use planning processes. Assist in identifying fish and wildlife habitats in need of protection and restoration, and in planning and developing protection and restoration strategies.

Distinguishing Characteristics:
As the first level of a professional series, the work involves assignments in which the scope, objective, priorities and timelines, methods and techniques are well defined and established by the supervisor, apply to most situations encountered, and do not require significant deviation from the project plan. Duties focus on obtaining fish and wildlife resource and habitat information and applying biological principles in the permitting, project review, land conveyance, and planning processes to minimize negative impacts to fish and wildlife resources, habitats, and public use of, and access to, fish and wildlife. Incumbents are responsible for the more routine projects, such as those specific to one type of permit or one defined geographical area. These projects generally require basic project design; data collection, compilation and analysis; and preparation of summaries, reports, permit stipulations, and recommendations; or the work may require assisting a higher level professional in completing part of a project of broader scope and complexity.

Procedures for doing work have been established and a number of specific guidelines are available; however, incumbents are expected to interpret and adapt agency policies, statutes and regulations, precedents, and work directions for application to short-term problems of limited consequence to resources, industry, agency, or project proponent or sponsor. Incumbents assist in preparing Fish Habitat Permit and Special Area Permit decisions but are not delegated departmental signature authority.

The Habitat Biologist series is distinguished from the Fish and Wildlife Technician series in that biologists are assigned a basic problem, area of inquiry, or phenomenon to be explained and understood. The work requires the application of theory related to research and scientific methods in the planning, execution, and documentation of the basic assignment. Incumbents interpret biological data, formulate conclusions, and make recommendations for the preservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and for public use of, and access to, fish and wildlife. Conversely, a technician's primary task is data gathering in support of habitat management, research, and permitting; and techniques are delineated in written guidelines, procedure manuals, or operational plans. Technicians obtain skill and practical knowledge by experience and on-the-job training whereas professionals are recognized by their facility with principles of "the scientific method" and theoretical knowledge acquired through higher education and professional training.

Examples of Duties:
Assist in developing recommendations regarding effects of development and resource extraction projects on fish and wildlife resources, habitats, and public use of, and access to, fish and wildlife (e.g., timber, mineral, and oil and gas sales, gravel removal, tideland developments, road and highway projects, and hydroelectric and seismic programs).

Assist in planning and conducting studies, summarizing and analyzing data and preparing reports on habitat impacts and restoration.

Obtain baseline data for preparation and review of environmental impact statements for proposed highways, pipelines, harbors, and other

construction projects, or to assess damages and mitigation options after natural or industrial disasters.

Conduct on-site inspections of projects to monitor compliance with permit stipulations. Investigate reported violations and initiate appropriate enforcement actions. Recommend mitigation actions and penalties for violations.

Obtain and provide fish and wildlife resource and habitat data to federal, state, and local agencies to help develop permit conditions and stipulations which may affect project decisions.

Monitor activities on state game refuges and critical habitat areas, and respond to requests for information regarding those areas. Identify and recommend habitat enhancement or restoration needs on refuges and other high-use areas that are important for fish and wildlife, or for public access to and use of them.

Identify, locate, and mark public access to fish and wildlife resources.

Prepare written reports of work accomplished, including tables, maps, and other figures.

May work in the field in remote locations.

May supervise technical support staff.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Working knowledge of basic scientific methods and techniques for biological research and reporting.

Working knowledge of fish and wildlife habitat requirements and ecological relationships.

Some knowledge of habitat protection and restoration strategies; issues, problems, and research techniques; and policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations affecting the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat.

Some knowledge of related disciplines such as forestry, range or grassland management, hydrology or limnology as they apply to fish and wildlife habitat issues.

Some knowledge of federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies, related to fish and wildlife habitat and/or public access (e.g., Alaska Statute Titles 16 and 41).

Ability to monitor projects and land transfers for compliance with fish and wildlife habitat and access related statutes, regulations and permit requirements.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with staff and the public.

Ability to lead others and to work as a member of a team.

Ability to organize, analyze and evaluate data. Familiarity with computers including database and spreadsheet software.

Ability to use statistics, maps and charts as analytical tools and to present information in clear and concise written reports.

Ability to operate boats, motors, all-terrain vehicles, cameras, electrofishers and other scientific equipment, and fly on small aircraft including helicopters.

Minimum Qualifications:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college in biology, a branch of biology, limnology, biometrics, oceanography, forestry or natural resource management.

Substitution: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college, which includes or is supplemented by at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours in the fields listed above, of which 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours are course work bearing course numbers of 300 or higher.

Required Job Qualifications:

(The special note is to be used to explain any additional information an applicant might need in order to understand or answer questions about the minimum qualifications.)

Special Note:

An individual who will complete the educational requirements and obtain the required bachelor’s degree within six months may apply and be considered for a vacancy. Such applicants may be given a conditional job offer but may not be appointed until receipt of the required degree has been documented.

Minimum Qualification Questions:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in biology, a branch of biology, limnology, biometrics, oceanography, forestry or natural resource management?

Or Substitution:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, which includes or is supplemented by at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter

hours in the fields listed above, of which 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours are course work bearing course numbers of 300 or higher?

Or Substitution:

Will you receive a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in biology, a branch of biology, limnology, biometrics, oceanography, forestry, or natural resource management or a bachelor's degree that includes or is supplemented by at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours in these fields, with 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours of course work bearing course numbers of 300 or higher, within the next six months?